

Kindly amend Claims 8, 9, 12, 13 and 14 as follows.

8. (Amended) The cutting frame according to claim 7, wherein the longitudinal knives have openings, and wherein the girders have openings aligned with the openings in the longitudinal knives, and wherein the means for preventing the longitudinal knives from longitudinal movement relative to the transverse knives comprises a pin extending through the longitudinal knives openings and through the girder openings that are aligned with the longitudinal knives openings.

9. (Amended) The cutting frame according to claim 8, wherein the cross section of the openings in the longitudinal knives is sufficiently greater than the cross-sections of the pin to provide space in the openings around the pin.

12. (Amended) A cutting frame comprising:
a pair of girders, said girders being spaced apart from each other and having a plurality of transverse knives extending between the girders, means for securing the transverse knives to the girders,

a plurality of longitudinal knives arranged in substantially parallel relation to the girders and being spaced apart from each other, the longitudinal knives being secured against longitudinal displacement relative to the girders,

the transverse knives having a plurality of openings in alignment with the longitudinal knives and through which the longitudinal knives pass, the longitudinal knives being arranged in pairs, and a part being secured to the longitudinal knives at the opposite ends of the longitudinal knives, the part joining pairs of the longitudinal knives.

13. (Amended) The cutting frame according to claim 12, wherein the part has a "U" shape.

14. (Amended) The cutting frame according to claim 13, wherein the part is a bent part joining an adjacent pair of the longitudinal knives of unequal length.

Kindly add the following new Claims 17-19.

17. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for substantially preventing displacement of the longitudinal knives in the longitudinal direction comprises one end of the longitudinal knives being welded to one of the transverse knives.

18. An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the means for preventing the longitudinal knives from longitudinal movement relative to the transverse knives comprises one end of the longitudinal knives being welded to one of the transverse knives.

19. An apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the means for securing the longitudinal knives from longitudinal displacement relative to the transverse knives comprises one end of the longitudinal knives being welded to one of the transverse knives.